

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY

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ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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June 12, 2019

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Perry:


Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at the hearing entitled, "The Fiscal Year 2020 DOE Budget." We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the Subcommittee.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, members are permitted to submit additional questions to the witnesses for their responses, which will be included in the hearing record. Attached are questions directed to you from certain members of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your responses to the member who has submitted the questions using the Word document provided with this letter.

To facilitate the publication of the hearing record, please submit your responses to these questions by no later than the close of business on Thursday, July 11, 2019. As previously noted, this transmittal letter and your responses will be included in the hearing record. Your written responses should be transmitted by email in the Word document provided with this letter to Omar Guzman-Toro, Policy Analyst with the Committee, at Omar@mail.house.gov. You do not need to send a paper copy of your responses to the Committee. Using the Word document provided for submitting your responses will also help maintain the proper format for incorporating your answers into the hearing record.

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please have your staff contact Mr. Guzman-Toro at (202) 226-9398.

Sincerely,

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy

The Honorable Fred Upton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy

Subcommittee on Energy
Hearing on
"The Fiscal Year 2020 DOE Budget"
May 9, 2019

The Honorable Rick Perry
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy

The Honorable Fred Upton (R-MI)

1. In this year's budget, the Department launched a "MoonShot" RD&D effort across the Department of Energy's research offices, called the "Advanced Energy Storage Initiative (AESI)." It appears to be a crosscutting initiative with aggressive and achievable goals for cost competitive grid-scale energy storage services. This is great to see, as the Department has historically tackled some of the nation's most complicated energy challenges by aligning the American innovation machine's robust resources and competencies towards an ambitious "goal." These moonshots yielded breakthroughs like hydraulic fracturing, the MRI machine, and more recently 6 cent per kilowatt-hour (kWh) solar to society.
 - a. These types of goals can accelerate breakthroughs and ensure the efficient use of taxpayer resources. Wouldn't it be beneficial for the Department to launch similar RD&D initiatives for critical technologies like advanced nuclear and carbon capture for coal and gas as well?
2. I was one of the primary authors of the American Medical Isotope Production Act (AMIPA). AMIPA was intended to help drive conversion from Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU), which the Nuclear Threat Initiative has called "one of the most dangerous materials on the planet," <https://www.nti.org/newsroom/news/new-roadmap-minimize-and-eliminate-heu/> to non-HEU in the medical space. Over the last year, we have seen severe disruptions in the supply of non-HEU from overseas reactors which has adversely impacted U.S. patient care. <https://www.cardiovascularbusiness.com/topics/cardiovascular-imaging/nuclear-imaging-labs-brace-tc-99m-shortage>
 - a. Would you give us a status report on AMIPA progress, and where we stand with respect to conversion to non-HEU in the medical isotope space and what more Congress and the Administration could be doing to increase use and domestic production of non-HEU?

- b. Would you please include information concerning whether the Department met its goals/directives?
- c. In addition, please report on your preparations and evaluations with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to 2019 concerning joint certification about the ban on the export of highly enriched for purposes of medical isotope production, pursuant to Section 134 (f) of the Atomic Energy Act.

The Honorable Robert E. Latta (R-OH)

1. I am a supporter of DOE's efficiency standards, but I think we need to be realistic about the challenges and opportunities facing the program. The law originated in the 1970's and 80's. You are doing what you can to improve the standard setting process through a new "process rule" rulemaking, but I believe it is time that Congress modernize the law to reflect the realities of today.
 - a. What are you doing to improve transparency in the rulemaking process so consumers can be confident that the new products they purchase meet their expectations for quality, convenience, and energy efficiency?
 - b. As Congress considers ways to improve the standard setting process, will you commit to working with us and providing technical assistance?

The Honorable Tim Walberg (R-MI)

1. As industry and the markets continue to transition to cleaner technology-based solutions, we must also think more holistically about the transition toward electric vehicles and what it means for our environment. While we want to be good stewards of our earth, we must look at the cradle-to-grave impacts of other renewable resources—just like has been done with coal and nuclear resources.
 - a. Is the Department undertaking any initiatives or early-stage research to understand how advanced batteries—like those in electric vehicles—degrade and could be re-used or recycled?

The Honorable Richard Hudson (R-NC)

1. I have Fort Bragg in my district, the epicenter of the universe. With the largest military installation in the world in my backyard, I look for every opportunity to support our men and women in uniform both during and after their service. As you know, Congress provided DOE with new energy security authorities and responsibilities under the FAST Act, including a requirement to identify and protect defense critical infrastructure. I

understand that DOE's Office of Electricity is underway with several significant new initiatives, including the development of a North American energy model, which will help us identify interdependencies and potential risks.

- a. What are some of the major takeaways from your work on defense critical infrastructure, and what concerns you the most about the state of our bulk power grid and electricity generation fleet generally?
 - b. Could you supply the committee updated information you defense critical infrastructure work, and could we arrange a briefing for myself on this topic, given the Fort Bragg is in my district?
2. As the representative Fort Bragg, I am very interested in how we can improve the safety and security of our soldiers in the field and our military installations. As you know, I had an amendment included in the NDAA for DOE to develop guidelines for a pilot program for the deployment of micro reactors at critical DOE and DOD sites. It is my understanding the final report will be ready by August and I look forward to reading it.
 - a. Can I count on you for providing this committee and myself all the necessary technical assistance we need to put future deployment plans into action?
3. Secretary Perry, I know my time is running out. I am a big supporter of DOE's Energy and Manufacturing workforce development initiatives. Could you please follow up with me and this committee on conducting a full audit of all DOE workforce development activities, including a description of the workforce development program or project name, target audience or program focus, funding level, statutory authority, and program status?

The Honorable Jeff Duncan (R-SC)

1. Secretary Perry: First let me "thank you" for including budget dollars for the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative (AMC) building to be located at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in South Carolina. The AMC will not only allow experts in emerging technologies to collaborate with industry, academia and government to improve manufacturing in the Nation but also will assist the DOE complex by accelerating technology development for the cleanup mission. This will be a "game changer" for the local region in my state and certainly a "win/win" for the public private sectors. Do you have a comment or two about the importance of this facility to DOE-EM?